

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01

NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02

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R 120334Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9982

INFO USUN USMISSION NEW YORK 1620

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DEPT PASS EPA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESCAP, UNDP

SUBJECT: ESCAP: ENVIRONMENT TASK FORCE CUT BY UNDP

1. SUMMARY: AMERICAN PROJECT MANAGER OF ESCAP ENVIRONMENT TASK FORCE COMPLAINS OF DRASTIC UNDP BUDGET CUT WHICH REDUCES HIS 5-MAN GROUP TO 3 AND ELIMINATES MANY PROGRAMS PLANNED. HE ASK FOR COMPENSATORY U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR HIS US-MANNED AND US-EQUIPPED TEAM TO PREVENT ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS FROM DISAPPEARING OFF THE BOARD. END SUMMARY.

2. JERRY VOSS, PROJECT MANAGER, ESCAP TASK FORCE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT, SEEKS U.S. ASSISTANCE IN FORM TO COMPENSATE FOR, WHAT HE TERMS, SEVERE UNDP BUDGET CUTS HIS TASK FORCE HAS SUFFERED. HIS BUDGET HAS BEEN CUT FROM \$320,000 TO \$170,000. HE HAS SPENT 18 MONTHS CREATING A FIVE-MAN TEAM OF FOUR AMERICANS AND ONE AMERICAN-TRAINED AUSTRALIAN TO IMPLEMENT SECOND LARGEST UNEP OPERATION IN WORLD. (MARINE POLLUTION PROJECT IN MEDITERRANEAN IS BIGGER). HE HAS ELIMINATED PROGRAMS FOR IRAN, PHILIPPINES, SRI LANKA THIS YEAR AND KOREA AND

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA NEXT YEAR AND WILL FOCUS MAINLY ON

THAILAND AND MALAYSIA.

3. TASK FORCE WAS TO DEVOTE ITSELF MAINLY TO WATER POLLUTION IN ESCAP REGION BUT ALSO INCLUDED EXPERTS ON AIR AND NOISE POLLUTION. VOSS CLAIMS HE DID NOT PLAN TO HAVE ALL-AMERICAN TEAM BUT COULD NOT FIND OTHER QUALIFIED NATIONALS. HE NOTES NETHERLANDS HAS JUST OFFERED TO BAIL OUT MEKONG COMMITTEE DUTCH PROJECT MANAGER VAN DER ORD BY GUARANTEEING \$500,000 TO COMPENSATE FOR SHARP UNDP CUT AND VOSS WONDERED WHETHER U.S. COULD HELP HIM OUT.

4. VOSS WAS GIVEN NO ENCOURAGEMENT-ONLY A PROMISE TO PASS HIS COMPLAINT ALONG. VOSS HAD RECENTLY DISCUSSED HIS PLIGHT WITH STAFFORD MOUSKY OF USUN WHO ATTENDED RECENT TCDC REGIONAL MEETING.

COMMENT: ESCAP COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS OVER PAST TWO YEARS INDICATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ARE GIVEN VERY LOW PRIORITY BY ALL REGIONAL ESCAP MEMBERS EXCEPT SINGAPORE. TASK FORCE HAS \$20,000 WORTH OF PORTABLE U.S. TESTING GEAR IT PLANNED TO EMPLOY IN THIS AREA UNDER U.S. SUPERVISION. CLEARLY HIS ALL-AMERICAN GROUP MAKES HIM A PERFECT TARGET FOR UN BUREAUCRATS WHO CONTINUE TO BLAME UNDP CUTS MAINLY ON U.S. PIQUE OVER RECENT GA 30TH SESSION.

6. REQUEST GUIDANCE.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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